



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 24th INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) and FORT RILEY
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZN-GA-AS

17 April 2004

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Riley Retiree Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the Fort Riley Retiree Council was called to order by the chairperson, MSG (Ret) Michael L. Heronemus, USA, at 1020 hours on 17 April 2004.

Invocation: SSG (Ret) Carroll G. Everist, USA, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: MSG Heronemus led council members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes: The minutes of the council's meeting on 21 February 2004 were approved with the correction of Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson's title.

Committee Reports: No committees rendered reports.

Discussion:

a. LTC (Ret) Carol Beggs, USA, recounted efforts made in the Kansas legislature to exempt military discharges' DD Forms 214 from the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA). He said House Bill No. 2758 had passed in both the House and Senate and was in committee at the time of the Retiree Council's meeting. MSG Heronemus read aloud the language in the bill as it pertained to DD Forms 214. Council members expressed their approval of the proposed bill and their appreciation for LTC Beggs' efforts. LTC Beggs anticipated little difficulty in completing work on the bill when the legislature reconvenes, and expected that Governor Sebelius would sign it into law. (A copy of the proposed change to the KORA is appended to these minutes.)

b. COL (Ret) Vernon W. Steindruger, USA, had been nominated at a previous meeting to fill the Council vacancy created by the resignation of CDR (Ret) Halsey Hines, USN. Since COL Steindruger was unable to attend this meeting, it was agreed to hold the vacancy open for him until the next Council meeting.

c. Ms. Kathy Cunningham-Tucker, RSO, announced preliminary arrangements for the 2004 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD '04). It will be held on 10 September 2004, again at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Manhattan. Council members approved the proposed menu. LTC (Ret) Stanley Sutton, USA, indicated that flu shots probably would not be available that early in the Fall. He suggested that RAD '04 publicity so advise retirees, and that they be encouraged to obtain their flu shots later in the Fall from other practitioners.

d. Ms. Cunningham-Tucker informed Council members that the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, is redeploying to Fort Riley from Iraq. She indicated that the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer leadership is hemorrhaging in their haste to retire before another stop-loss message arrives, locking them in for another deployment. Some of the brigade's officers also are attempting to separate prior to another deployment. She mentioned that soldiers with normal ETS dates are choosing to separate rather than reenlist. The Department of Defense's 90-day involuntary extension (in Iraq) is not affecting any Fort Riley soldiers.

e. BG (Ret) Thomas J. Kennedy, USA, informed Council members that 1,100 Kansas National Guard soldiers were alerted for deployment during the week of 11-17 April 2004.

f. MSG Heronemus said that announcement of the death of Fort Riley soldiers in Iraq was being deferred not until the decedent's next-of-kin was notified, but until 24 hours after all the decedent's kin had been notified. That explained the delay between the announcement of the death of a soldier in Iraq and the availability of his or her name.

g. Ms. Cunningham-Tucker distributed new nametags to Retiree Council members.

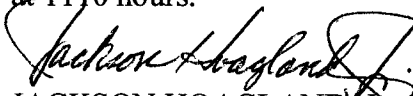
h. Ms. Cunningham-Tucker read a note of resignation from the Council submitted by Mrs. Betty Magcalas. Mrs. Magcalas said she would be moving back to Kentucky to be near family members living there. Council members were requested to seek a nominee to replace her.

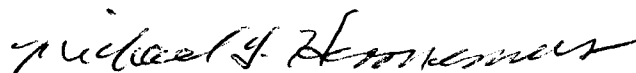
i. SGT (Ret) David Sutton, USA, Commander of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Post 28 in Manhattan, addressed the Council. He sought support for the establishment of a DAV Veteran's Service Office at Fort Riley with the mission of assisting veterans in the preparation and submission of paperwork for various government entitlements. MSG Heronemus invited SGT Sutton to make a formal presentation at a future Council meeting once the scope and parameters of the DAV's effort have been more fully developed.

j. BG Kennedy announced a 1 November 2004 deadline for the submission of issues to the CSA's Retiree Council. Inputs were requested.

k. SSG Everist announced that the Winfield National Cemetery would be dedicated in Winfield, Kansas on 1 October 2004.

Adjournment: There being no further old or new business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1110 hours.


JACKSON HOAGLAND, JR.
LTC (Ret), USA, Recorder


MICHAEL L. HERONEMUS
MSG (Ret), USA, Chairperson


KATHY CUNNINGHAMTUCKER
DAC, Retirement Services Officer

Attachment: Brief of HB 2758 on DD Form 214

Session of 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2758

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Elections and Local Government

Brief

HB 2758 would amend the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to add two new exemptions from the openness requirement: military discharge papers and the location of a safe house or shelter.

Specifically, the exemptions are as follows:

Any information or material received by the register of deeds of a county from military discharge papers (DD Form 214) except to the military discharge, the dischargee's immediate family members and lineal descendants; the dischargee's heirs, agents or assigns; a person who is a licensed funeral director and who has custody of the body of the deceased dischargee; a department or agency of the federal government or political subdivision when required; when the form is required to perfect the claim of military service or honorable discharge or a claim of the dependent of the dischargee and upon the written approval of the commissioner of veterans' affairs, to a person conducting research.

! Information that would reveal the location of a shelter or safe house or similar place where persons are provided protection from abuse.